

Department of State

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UNCLAS STATE 416686

AIDAC FOR LARRY CRANDALL, AID REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: AUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATION SECTOR
SUPPORT PROJECT AAM AMENDMENT

1. SUMMARY. TASK FORCE REVIEWED AAM AMENDMENT ON DECEMBER 16, 1988 AND RECOMMENDED AA/ANE AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT OF SUBJECT PROJECT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NEW ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT.

ACCORDINGLY, ON DECEMBER 27, 1988, AA/ANE CAROL ADELMAN SIGNED AMENDMENT TO THE PROJECT AUTHORIZATION, INCREASING THE LOP BY DOLS 16.0 MILLION, TO A TOTAL LOP OF DOLS 38.3 MILLION, EXTENDING PACD TO DECEMBER 31, 1992, AND APPROVING NEGOTIATION OF AN EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA ON A NON-COMPETITIVE BASIS. ALL COMPONENTS EXCEPT NEW ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WERE APPROVED. RESULTS OF THE TASK FORCE REVIEW AND GUIDANCE TO THE MISSION IS PROVIDED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSISTENCY WITH THE TRANSITION STRATEGY. TASK FORCE MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PROPOSED NEW ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT, THE AMENDED PROJECT IS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE

TRANSITION STRATEGY. THE DECISION REGARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT IS DISCUSSED BELOW. GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE AFGHAN POLITICAL SITUATION, AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PROGRAM, THE BUREAU WILL REVIEW THE PROJECT IN ONE YEAR (AS IN THE CASE OF THE HEALTH PROJECT). THE MISSION SHOULD DEVISE A QUOTE REVERSE ACCORDION UNQUOTE OF THIS PROJECT, AND, PERHAPS, THE ENTIRE PORTFOLIO (I.E. WHERE CUTS WOULD BE ABSORBED), SHOULD PLANNED FUNDING LEVELS NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE. ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE WILL BE PROVIDED IN SEPTEL RE FY 1989 OBLIGATION PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE MISSION.

3. RURAL PRIMARY EDUCATION COMPONENT. THE BUREAU APPROVES THIS COMPONENT AS PRESENTED IN THE AAM AMENDMENT. TASK FORCE MEMBERS RAISED THE ISSUE OF RECURRENT COST LIABILITIES, NOTING THAT THE SALARIES LINE ITEM, ALONE, ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST 41 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET. THE TASK FORCE RECOGNIZES THAT, AT THIS TIME, THERE ARE NO CLEAR CUT SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM, AND REQUESTS THE MISSION TO CONTINUE TO SEEK PARTICIPATION BY THE UN AND OTHER DONORS, AS

APPROPRIATE. CONCERN WAS ALSO EXPRESSED FOR THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION BEING PROVIDED. AS NOTED IN THE EVALUATION AND AAM AMENDMENT, AS THE SITUATION INSIDE AFGHANISTAN IMPROVES AND WE HAVE MORE DIRECT ACCESS, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON THE QUALITY ISSUE, PARTICULARLY AS RELATED TO TEXTBOOK REVISIONS, AND TEACHER AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR TRAINING.

4. SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE TEXT DEVELOPMENT AND HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOK PILOT ACTIVITY. THE BUREAU HAS CONCERNS ABOUT DILUTING OUR EMPHASIS AND RESOURCES IN PRIMARY EDUCATION. ALSO, IT IS UNCERTAIN WHAT IMPACT THE REVISION AND PROVISION OF TEXTBOOKS WILL HAVE WITHOUT TRAINING AND SALARY SUPPORT. HOWEVER, GIVEN SMALL AMOUNT OF FUNDING INVOLVED, IF AID REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVES THAT FOR POLITICAL OR LEVERAGE REASONS THESE INVESTMENTS ARE CRITICAL, THE BUREAU APPROVES THIS COMPONENT AS PRESENTED IN THE AAM AMENDMENT-WITH THE CAVEAT THAT PROJECT SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES DO NOT GO BEYOND WHAT IS DESCRIBED IN THE AMENDMENT. THE TASK FORCE WAS CONCERNED THAT BOTH ACTIVITIES COULD LEAD TO EXPECTATIONS AND/OR FURTHER COMMITMENTS, CARRYING THE PROJECT FAR BEYOND QUOTE NEAR MAINTENANCE LEVELS UNQUOTE. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH COULD LEAD TO SUPPORT OF MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS' SALARIES. WHILE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT CANNOT GO BEYOND DEVELOPMENT, DISTRIBUTION AND RESUPPLY OF THE BOOKS,

HIGH SCHOOL TEXT REVISION MUST NOT GO BEYOND THE REVISION, PRODUCTION AND INITIAL DISTRIBUTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR CORE SUBJECTS.

5. LITERACY TRAINING. THE BUREAU APPROVES THIS COMPONENT AS PRESENTED IN THE AAM AMENDMENT. THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS SHARED THE MISSION'S CONCERN THAT ATTAINED LITERACY MAY BE LOST WITHOUT REINFORCEMENT WITH ADDITIONAL READING MATERIAL. WHILE THE SEPARATE LINE ITEM FOR MINE AND NARCOTICS AWARENESS WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL, AND RELEVANT READING MATERIAL, THE BUREAU URGES THE MISSION TO SEEK OTHER WAYS OF PROVIDING FOR RELEVANT, SUPPLEMENTARY READING MATERIAL. WE DO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT EXPANDING THIS PROGRAM INSIDE AFGHANISTAN GIVEN WORLDWIDE EXPERIENCES WITH LITERACY PROGRAMS UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES. WE BELIEVE THE EXPANSION INSIDE AFGHANISTAN SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED IN THE ANNUAL REVIEW.

6. MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. THE BUREAU APPROVES THE COMPONENT AS PRESENTED IN THE AAM AMENDMENT. THERE WERE NO MAJOR ISSUES ON THIS COMPONENT.

7. SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT. ONLY CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT UNO PROGRAM FOR ONE MORE YEAR IS APPROVED. PER THE PROJECT BUDGET, THIS WOULD INCLUDE FUNDING OF DOLS 840,000 IN FY 89 AND DOLS 630,000 IN FY 90. SUPPORT OF U.S. UNIVERSITY-OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS AND AID PARTICIPANTS WERE CONSIDERED NOT TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE TRANSITION STRATEGY. THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD NECESSITATE EXTENSION OF THE PACD TO DECEMBER, 1995-TWO YEARS BEYOND THE THREE YEAR POLICY/STRATEGY TIME FRAME. CONCERNS WERE RAISED REGARDING: THE LENGTH OF STUDY PROGRAMS-UP TO FOUR YEARS FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES, THE UNCERTAINTY OF PLACEMENT AFTER COMPLETION OF STUDIES, AND THE RELEVANCE OF STUDY AREAS.

8. CONCLUSION. SUBJECT TO THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED ABOVE, ALL COMPONENTS ARE APPROVED, AS PRESENTED IN THE AAM AMENDMENT DOCUMENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT. THE NEW ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT, VALUED AT DOLS 2.7 MILLION ARE

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NOT APPROVED. ACCORDINGLY, THE AUTHORIZED LOP OF THE
AMENDED PROJECT IS REDUCED BY THAT AMOUNT. THE MISSION
MAY PROCEED WITH AMENDING THE CONTRACT WITH UNO AND
OBLIGATION OF FUNDS. WHITEHEAD

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